

NCDOT's Transportation – Public Health Policy (Approved October 4, 2012)

The mission of the North Carolina Department of Transportation is to connect people and places safely and efficiently, with accountability and environmental sensitivity to enhance the economy, health and well-being of North Carolina.

Our mission statement includes support of improved public health outcomes. The following policy statement further supports this mission.

Policy Statement

Transportation and public health research has demonstrated there is a link between the built environment and public health. Furthermore, public health may be affected by certain attributes of and risks inherent to the transportation system. Research tends to show that there is a strong connection between the built environment and public health outcomes, including rates of chronic disease, obesity, levels of physical activity, safety and general well-being; therefore, collaboratively planned land use and transportation can create opportunities for improved public health.

Inactivity among North Carolinians has contributed to higher rates of chronic diseases, lower levels of overall health and well-being, and therefore higher health care costs. Increased physical activity has been shown to improve health outcomes and decrease healthcare costs, and the benefits of a healthier population include a more productive workforce, a more robust economy and a more globally competitive State.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation may have opportunities to support positive health outcomes by considering public health implications in our decision-making across all transportation modes, programs, policies, projects, and services, and through all stages of the life of a transportation project from planning to project development, construction, operations, and maintenance. Specifically, we can consider:

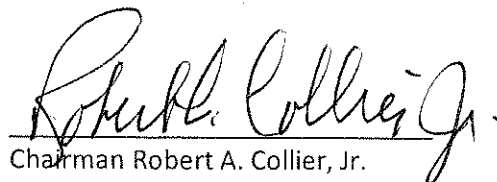
- a multi-modal transportation system to provide access to and options for customers of all abilities and capabilities;
- the safety for all users and all modes of transportation; and
- the potential for the transportation system to support human health.

Employees are encouraged to develop transportation solutions that consider the health and well-being of North Carolina residents in conjunction with other mobility, fiscal, safety, social, economic and environmental factors.

Approved by:



Secretary Eugene A. Conti
NC Department of Transportation



Chairman Robert A. Collier, Jr.
NC Board of Transportation